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Representative Jamie Van Fossen
Representative Roger Thomas



Representative Wes Whitead
Representative Cindy Winckler

State Capitol
Des Moines, IA 50319
LSA 515-281-6766
Fax 515-281-6625

January 19, 2006

The Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack, Governor
State of Iowa

During the 2005 Interim, the Government Oversight Committee investigated the records management and storage processes in various state agencies. Due to the variety of storage formats, the volume of records, and length of time they are required to be kept, it is essential that the State undertake a thorough examination of alternatives available to insure the maintenance and protection of required records, and the policies established to determine which records are indeed essential. One issue of particular concern is the security of personally identifiable information being stored in an electronic format.

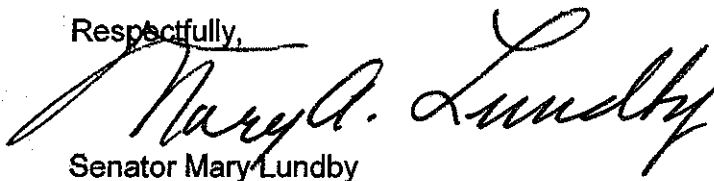
The costs of maintaining the volume of records currently stored, including the space costs for the volume of paper records required for some Departments, is resulting in potentially unnecessary expenses. In addition, the Committee heard testimony related to the burden at the local government level as well.

As a result, the Government Oversight Committee is requesting that you establish a Blue Ribbon Task Force to thoroughly examine this issue at both the State and local governmental levels. The goals of the Task Force would include providing recommendations to the General Assembly on necessary policy changes related to records management and security, as well as options for a uniform records storage medium that will minimize risk of loss of required and essential documents.

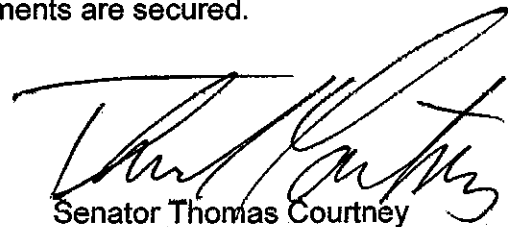
The Committee recommends that the Task Force include several state agency representatives, including representatives from the Department of Corrections, the State Archivist, several high volume records processing businesses (e.g., insurance, banking and information technology), as well as local government representatives, and the State Historical Society.

We look forward to the opportunity to discuss this issue with you and to work with you to insure that essential and required records and historical documents are secured.

Respectfully,



Senator Mary Lundby



Senator Thomas Courtney



Representative Dwayne Alons